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Tourism, Culture and Recreation

April 30, 2008

The following statement was issued by the Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. It was also read in the House of Assembly:

Culture and Heritage Focus of Historica Fairs

I rise in this Honourable House today to speak about the Historica Fairs Program, which celebrates Canadian history and culture through projects presented to the public by students in Grades 4 through 9.

Many Newfoundland and Labrador schools hold Historica fairs and select representatives to participate in one of eight regional fairs across the province. Thousands of students participate in the program annually.

This year, the regional fairs are taking place from May 1 to May 9. Students' projects range from personal family histories to those which feature major historical events in Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout Canada.

Each regional fair then selects one or two students - 15 in total from across the province - to represent Newfoundland and Labrador at the National Historica Camp held each July in a different province. This year, it is being held in Victoria, British Columbia.

I plan to attend the Avalon Region's Historica Fair on Saturday, May 3, and see first-hand the knowledge students have gained through their participation in this program. I know many of my colleagues will be attending regional fairs as well.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the program is operated through the Historic Sites Association, with support from the Departments of Education and Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

As a government, we are proud to support this kind of activity, which allows students to develop a critical appreciation of the significant roles that both tangible, and intangible, heritage play in our society.

I encourage people to visit a Historica Fair near them to see some of the hard work and talent that has gone into these projects.

I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking and commending the Historic Sites Association, and volunteer organizers, and in extending congratulations and best wishes to all Newfoundland and Labrador students participating in the Historica Fairs Program.

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2:20 p.m.



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